

REMARKS

Claims 4-9 are pending in the application. Claims 1 - 3 were previously canceled. Claims 4-6 were presented for examination in the present application and are presented for consideration upon entry of the instant amendment. Claims 7-9 are newly added and are also presented for consideration upon entry of this amendment.

Section 1 of the Office Action objected to the Abstract. Applicants are amending the Abstract. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are requested.

Section 2 of the Office Action objected to the disclosure for informalities. Applicants are amending the Specification to address the informality. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are requested.

Section 3 of the Office Action objected to the specification for omitting a “Brief Description of the Drawings” section. On Page 3 at Line 10, Applicants are adding a section entitled “Brief Description of the Drawings”. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are requested.

Section 4 of the Office Action objected to claims 4 and 5 for various informalities. Appropriate correction to claims 4 and 5 has been submitted with this amendment. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are requested.

Section 6 of the Office Action rejected Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for reciting “said cavity” yet failing to indicate if the “said cavity” is on the membrane disk or the turbulence disk. Claim 6 now recites that the second cavity is in the at least one turbulence disk. Thus, the indefiniteness that was perceived has been repaired. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

Section 8 of the Office Action rejected claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by DE 100 39 272 (Blasé).

Claim 4 provides for a device for filter a medium. The device has a difference in a peripheral velocity on a connecting line between each rotation axis of the at least one membrane disk and the at least one turbulence disk. The difference in peripheral velocity between the at least one membrane and the at least one turbulence disk being about equally large at every point in the region being affected by the turbulence caused by a turbulence disk.

Blasé discloses a device that has at least two hollow disks (see Abstract). The hollow disks can be arranged to overlap each other and can rotate on parallel axes in the same direction (see Figures 1 and 2).

The Office Action, on page 3, indicated that Blasé teaches a device for filtering a medium comprising a membrane disk and a turbulence disk that rotate on parallel axes on parallel planes. The Office Action goes on to contend that Blasé teaches that the turbulence disk produces a turbulence that affects a lateral face of at least one membrane disk, and that a difference in periphery velocity on a connecting line between the rotation axis of each disk is about equal.

However, Blasé does not appear to include any teaching of a peripheral velocity of a membrane disk and a turbulence disk being about equal at every point in a region being affected by turbulence caused by a turbulence disk. Blasé does not even discuss the importance of the periphery velocity of the disks. Therefore, Blasé neither discloses nor suggests **the difference in peripheral velocity between the at least one membrane and the at least one turbulence disk being about equally large at every point in the region being affected by the turbulence caused by a turbulence disk**, as recited in claim 4. Thus, Blasé does not anticipate claim 4.

Claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 4. By virtue of this dependence, claims 5 and 6 are also novel over Blasé.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 102(a) rejection of claims 4 - 6.

Section 9 of the Office Action rejected claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 10-99611 (“Toyokazu”).

Toyokazu discloses a device that has at least two disk-shaped filter units, where one filter unit can have a diameter greater than another filter unit (see Abstract and Figure 1). The filter units can be arranged to overlap each other and can rotate on parallel axes in the same direction. (See Figures 1 and 2)

On pages 4-5, the Office Action stated that Toyokazu teaches a device for filtering medium comprising a membrane disk and a turbulence disk that rotate on parallel axes on parallel planes. The Office Action goes on to contend that Toyokazu teaches that the turbulence disk produces a turbulence that affects a lateral face of at least one membrane disk, and that a difference in periphery velocity on a connecting line between the rotation axis of each disk is about equal, i.e., the periphery velocity of the two disks is about equal in the “turbulence region.”

Toyokazu does not discuss the velocity of the periphery of the disk-shaped filter units, and therefore does not discuss the relative velocities of the periphery of a turbulence filter unit and a membrane filter unit. The Examiner contends that it would have been inherently understood that a difference in the periphery velocities of the turbulence disk and the membrane disk would be equally large. However, with no reference to periphery velocities of the filter units in Toyokazu one would not inherently understand that the two filter units would have equally large peripheral velocities in the “turbulence region,” or any other region of the disks. Therefore, Toyokazu neither discloses nor suggests **the difference in peripheral velocity** between the at least one membrane and the at least one turbulence disk **being about equally large at every point in the region** being affected by the turbulence caused by a turbulence disk, as recited in claim 4. Accordingly, claim 4 is novel over Toyokazu.

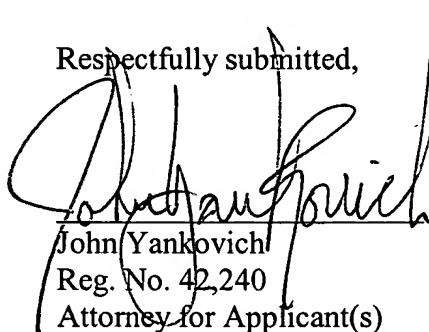
Claims 5 and 6, by virtue of their dependence on claim 4, are also novel over Toyokazu.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 102(b) rejection of claims 4 - 6.

Applicants are adding claims 7-9 to provide claim coverage that Applicants appear to deserve based on the art that has been cited by the Examiner. Support for new claims 7 through 9 can be found in the specification at least at page 3 and in the figures. Applicants respectfully request a favorable consideration of claims 7 - 9.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

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Respectfully submitted,

John Yankovich
Reg. No. 42,240
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.
One Landmark Square, 10th floor
Stamford, CT 06901-2682
Tel: (203) 327-4500
Fax: (203) 327-6401